

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

Science-Based Targets Working Group

Progress Report and
Recommendations

CEAC Meeting – Nov 17, 2021

Science-Based Targets Working Group Process

- Six CEAC members volunteered to engage in detailed discussions and bring recommendations back to the group
- Two meetings:
 - First – introduction and high-level feedback
 - Second – draft reduction target and detailed discussions
- The topics we covered include:
 - Is the guidance clear on what the science-based targets should be?
 - How do we handle natural variation in emissions (e.g. weather)?
 - How do we best communicate the science-based targets?
 - What issues may emerge from adopting a science-based target?

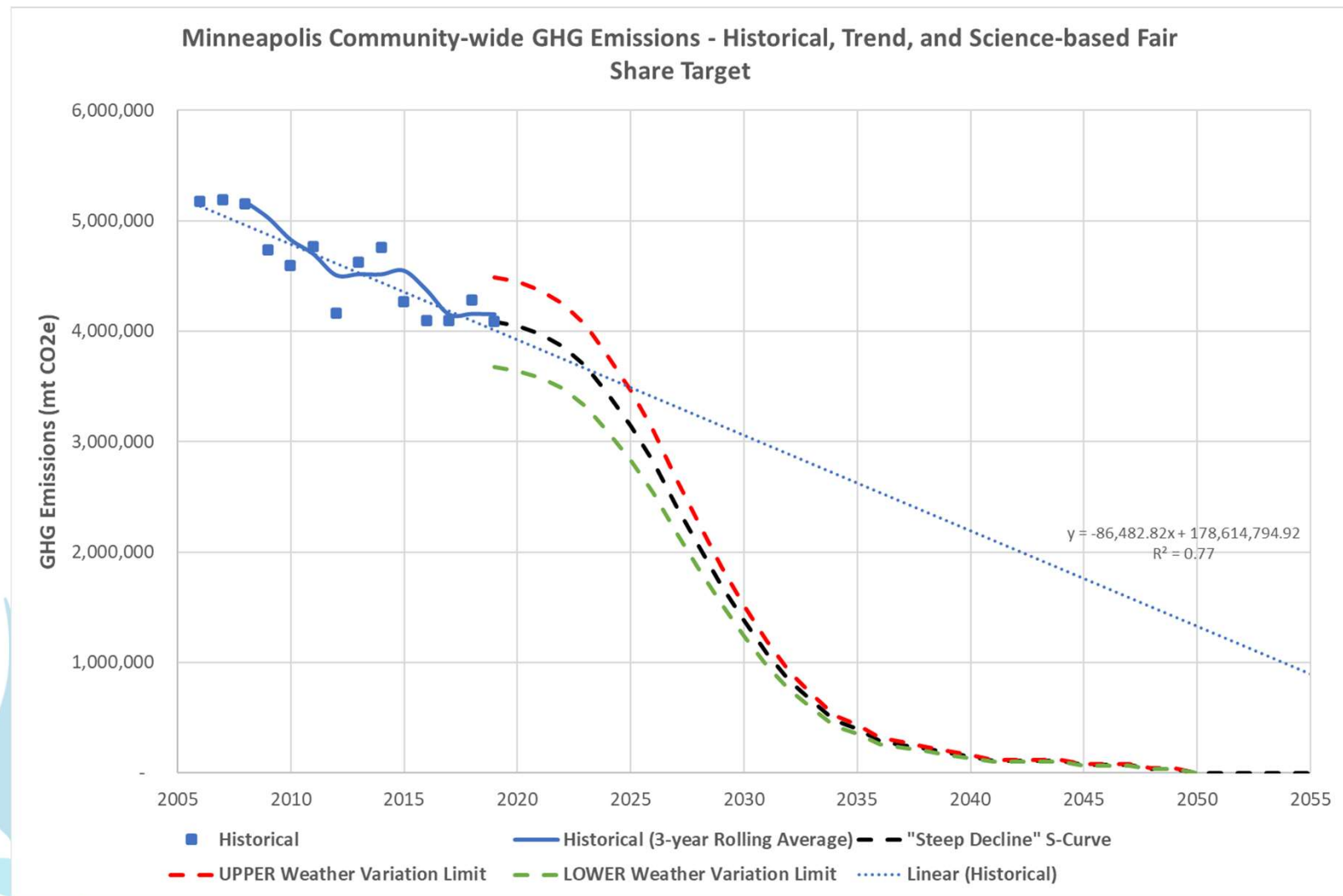


Science-Based Targets – Working Group Recommendations (Part 1)

- Is the guidance clear on what the science-based targets should be?
 - Mostly. Minneapolis is firmly in the high GDP/high emissions group
 - The period used to set the trajectory is ambiguous.
 - What emissions to include is also unclear.
 - The group recommends a three-year average centered on 2019
 - This balances between ignoring and over-weighting reductions from 2020 due to COVID
 - It also has a partial effect of normalizing for weather
 - The group recommends omitting trace refrigerant emissions and focusing on core gases
 - Carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide
- How do we handle natural variation in emissions (e.g. weather)?
 - The group discussed three approaches
 - Weather normalizing
 - Three year moving average
 - An upper and lower bound of acceptable variation based on past trends
 - The group recommended the “bounded” approach as it allows for more transparent tracking



Draft Science-Based Target Trajectory



Science-Based Targets – Working Group Recommendations (Part 2)

- How do we best communicate the science-based targets?
 - The major shift needs to happen in 2020s, urgency is a key message
 - The working group suggests two complementary approaches to reporting
 - Tracking declining annual emissions to show progress
 - Tracking cumulative emissions to motivate transformation
- What issues may emerge from adopting a science-based target?
 - Equity
 - More emission reductions to gain from targeting areas of concentrated affluence
 - Energy consumption in areas of concentrated poverty represents a larger share of income
 - Focusing on affluent areas would likely reinforce historical inequities
 - Control
 - The City of Minneapolis has limited control over many emissions sources and needs to influence without authority
 - Disruption of lifestyle
 - Disruption current emission-generating “habits” is a risk that could cause resistance



Draft Science-Based Target Budget

Carbon Budget for 2020's, 2030's, and 2040's		
Budget under "Steep Decline" S-Curve	37,752,463	mt CO2e
Used in 2020	3,516,431	mt CO2e
Remaining (2021 and beyond)	34,236,031	mt CO2e
Empty Year (at 2019 levels)	2029	
Empty Year (following trendline)	2030	

